

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

In an Office Action mailed August 18, 2005, claims 1-20 stand rejected. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 4 and 5. Claim 7 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 10 and 11. Claim 13 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 16 and 17. Claims 4, 5, 10, 11, 16, and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new claims have been added. Applicant has thoroughly reviewed the outstanding Office Action including the Examiner's remarks. The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action. All the pending claims at issue are believed to be patentable over the cited references.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,692,175 to Frantz for reasons set forth in the Office Action on pages 2 through 4.

Regarding claim 1, the Applicant respectfully submits that in light of the present amendments to the claims, the Frantz patent does not disclose at least a drain device that includes a spring loaded ball or valve to open or shut the orifice in the inner chamber, and wherein the spring loaded ball or valve shuts the inner chamber drain orifice when the outer chamber pressure is greater than the inner chamber pressure. In contrast, the Frantz patent discloses a two stage precoalescer unit with a valve 40 actuated by actuating gas applied through an actuating gas port 47. *See* Frantz, col. 5, lines 10-36; Fig. 2. "[T]he valves 40 and 42 are actuated substantially simultaneously, respectively to open and close, by actuating gas applied through an actuating gas port 47 on a piston 48 mounted on the same stem 46 and mounting the outlet

valve.” Frantz, col. 5, lines 10-14. Thus, the Examiner’s rejection of independent claim 1 should be withdrawn in light of the preceding amendment and arguments.

Claims 2-6, 19, and 20 are either directly or indirectly dependent on claim 1 which is believed to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, claims 2-6, 19, and 20 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1. The Examiner’s rejection of these dependent claims should be withdrawn in light of the presently amended claim 1.

Regarding claim 7, the Applicant respectfully argues that in light of the present amendments to the claims. The Frantz patent does not disclose at least a spring loaded ball or valve to open or shut the orifice in the inner chamber, and wherein the spring loaded ball or valve shuts the inner chamber drain orifice when the outer chamber pressure is greater than the inner chamber pressure. In contrast, the Frantz patent discloses a two stage precoalescer unit with a valve 40 actuated by actuating gas applied through an actuating gas port 47. *See* Frantz, col. 5, lines 10-36; Fig. 2. “[T]he valves 40 and 42 are actuated substantially simultaneously, respectively to open and close, by actuating gas applied through an actuating gas port 47 on a piston 48 mounted on the same stem 46 and mounting the outlet valve.” Frantz, col. 5, lines 10-14. Thus, the Examiner’s rejection of independent claim 7 should be withdrawn in light of the preceding amendment and arguments.

Claims 8-12 are dependent on claim 7 which is believed to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, claims 8-12 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 7. The Examiner’s rejection of these dependent claims should be withdrawn in light of the presently amended claim 7.

Regarding claim 13, the Applicant respectfully argues that in light of the present amendments to the claims. The Frantz patent does not disclose at least a spring loaded ball or

valve to open or shut the orifice in the inner chamber, and wherein the spring loaded ball or valve shuts the inner chamber drain orifice when the outer chamber pressure is greater than the inner chamber pressure. In contrast, the Frantz patent discloses a two stage precoalescer unit with a valve 40 actuated by actuating gas applied through an actuating gas port 47. *See* Frantz, col. 5, lines 10-36; Fig. 2. “[T]he valves 40 and 42 are actuated substantially simultaneously, respectively to open and close, by actuating gas applied through an actuating gas port 47 on a piston 48 mounted on the same stem 46 and mounting the outlet valve.” Frantz, col. 5, lines 10-14. Thus, the Examiner’s rejection of independent claim 13 should be withdrawn in light of the preceding amendment and arguments.

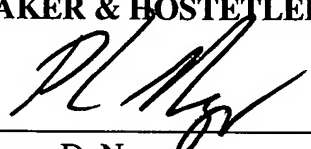
Claims 14-18 are dependent on claim 13 which is believed to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, claims 14-18 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 13. The Examiner’s rejection of these dependent claims should be withdrawn in light of the presently amended claim 13.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such action hereby solicited. If it is believed that the application is not in condition for allowance the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

An extension of two months is due in connection with this submission, and the appropriate fees are enclosed with this amendment. However any additional extension of time necessary for entering this paper is hereby requested and any fees due for consideration of this response is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2036 with reference to Attorney Docket No. 87245.1660.

Respectfully submitted,
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